Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Newsletter

March Meeting

Tue 2-Mar-2021, 7:30pm

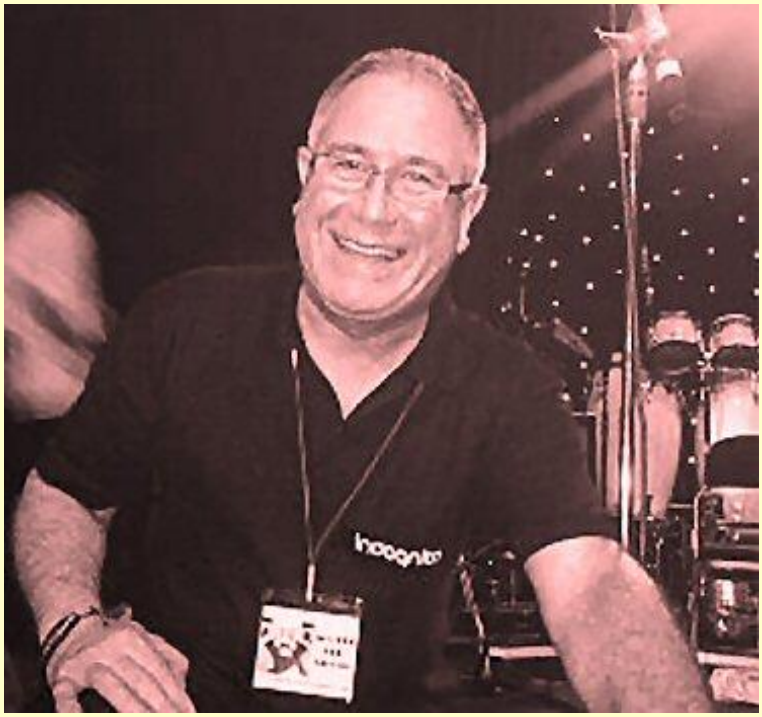
Online by Zoom

Behind the Scenes

By John O'Connell M0JOC

Our Exam Secretary/Training coordinator John O'Connell M0JOC talks about his role as Tour Manager for a professional 12-piece international touring band – event planning, onstage requirements including wireless connectivity and experience providing technical support for live performances / concerts including photos and video clips.

Also, a light-hearted look at the old adage "what goes on tour stays on tour …..", from an open air concert in front of a submarine in Montenegro, an underground cave in Hungary, The Jazz cafe, O2 Arena and Ronnie Scott's, to The Albert Hall.



Zoom:

- Quick Link: **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81791859988?pwd=Y3BBdnZDbmpLZjJqZ0V2NzNwUjg2Zz09**
- Meeting ID: 817 9185 9988
- Passcode: 667437

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Club Diary

Tue 2-Mar-2021	Talk: Behind the Scenes – John O'Connell M0JOC	Online by Zoom
Tue 6-Apr-2021	Talk: 50 Years in the Hobby – Don Field G3XTT, PW Editor	Online by Zoom
Sat 24-Apr-2021	International Marconi Day	On Air
Tue 4-May-2021	Further Adventures at VHF/UHF – Tim Kirby GW4VXE, PW	Online by Zoom
Tue 8-Jun-2021	A Guide to EMF – John Rogers, M0JAV, RSGB	Online by Zoom

Club Nets

CARS meets for talks/events on the first Tuesday of the month. The subsequent Tuesdays have club radio nets as follows below and dates listed on our calendar at www.g0mwt.org.uk/main/events/categories/net/ :-

- **2nd Tuesday in the Month – VHF**
  The CARS VHF FM Net uses GB3DA from Danbury starting at 8pm (local).
  GB3DA is 145.125MHz Input and 145.725MHz Output - and CTCSS-only (110.9Hz), 2min timeout
  If for any reason GB3DA is not available then 145.375 Simplex will be used. Vertical aerials are best for this
- **3rd Tuesday in the Month - UHF**
  The CARS UHF FM Net uses GB3ER from Danbury and starting at 8pm (local).
  GB3ER is 434.675MHz Input and 433.075MHz Output - and is CTCSS-only
  Vertical aerials are best.
- **4th Tuesday in the Month - HF**
  The CARS 80m Net on "3756kHz" Night, SSB and starting at 8pm (local).
  Horizontal aerials are best. The idea is to enable distant CARS Members to join the Net.
- **5th Tuesday in the Month (when there is one!) - MF**
  This is the CARS Top Band Net on 1947/1950 kHz +/-QRM, LSB and starting at 8pm (local).
  Horizontal aerials are usually used for this Net. A reminder - limit your power to a max of 30 Watts, please.

Training & Morse Classes

If you are interested in the new RSGB online exam or other opportunities,
please contact **John O'Connell M0JOC** our training coordinator and Exam Secretary

John can be contacted via training2020@g0mwt.org.uk or 07868-004380

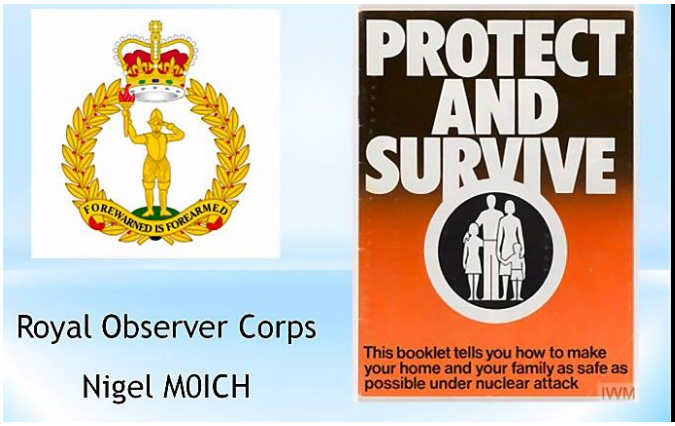
Note: RSGB now have all three levels of exams available via their online exam booking system. It also has new Foundation training videos online at: http://rsgb.org/foundation-practicals/

NEW EXAM: RSGB is consulting on a new Direct-to-Full exam syllabus (D2F) for which there is a draft syllabus and simple survey online at present:

https://rsgb.org/main/about-us/committees/examination-standards-committee/direct-entry-to-full-licence-rsgb-consultation/

More info and other updates are at: www.g0mwt.org.uk/training
Morse classes at Danbury are suspended – but do contact Andy G0IBN who has on-air practice sessions

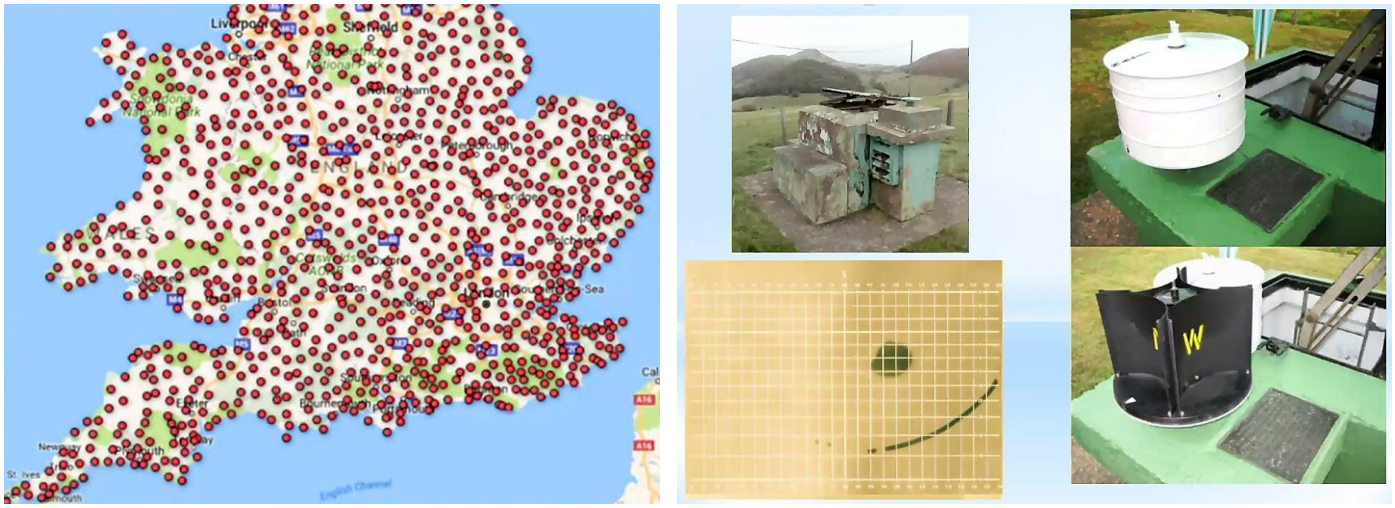
February Meeting: Forewarned is Forearmed



Nigel Newman M0ICH treated us to a fascinating talk on the post-war activities of the Royal Observer Corps (ROC). The title of the talk 'Forewarned is Forearmed'…. is the motto of the ROC

Up until the 1980's the ROC underground bunkers were the only means of coordinating the response to a nuclear attack. Essex CW member and former ROC volunteer (c1976) Nigel M0ICH, gave an online presentation to CARS describing the equipment used and the role of the radio in the event of an apocalypse.

Following the more well-known role of the ROC assisting warnings for air defence in in WW2, they were reorganised to become a key cold war resource in the event of a nuclear attack. Between 1956 and 1965, the UK government ordered the construction of hundreds of monitoring posts at a distance of about 15 miles apart. Thirty larger HQ and control centres were also built.



The was an extensive network – each with instruments that could record bearings of ground zero flashes

Only a handful survive today in good condition. The smaller observation posts would have their data collated together and fed to places such as the Secret Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch which would house regional government headquarters where plots would be made and fallout forecast/calculated.

The network of ROC posts was tasked to identify and measure explosion types, ranges and warnings needed to be assessed. For example one issue was to distinguish between:-

- **Airburst** (as in Hiroshima) – detonated at height creates wider area destruction, but leave the target site easier to access afterwards
- **Groundburst** – detonates on the ground, create extra fallout by throwing up earth etc

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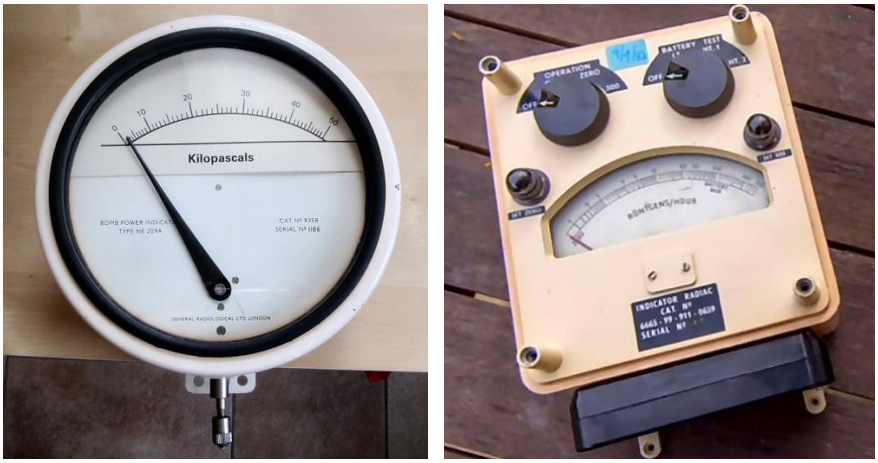
Key questions were dealt with by a modest number of Instruments

- *Where was the bomb ?* Ground Zero Indicator - see earlier picture
- *Air or Ground burst ?* Ground Zero Indicator
- *How big ?* Bomb Power Indicator - by measuring the blast pressure
- *Where is the radiation going?* Fixed Survey Meter
- *How to warn the public ? – Siren and Maroons*
- Communications: Carrier receiver, Teletalk or Radio

The 1960s network was replaced initially by more modern kit in the 1970s. However nowadays a lot has gone, sirens decommissioned and emergency text messaging used instead

An ROC bunker with a Ground-Zero direction indicator on top



Meters for Size/Pressure (kilopascal) and Radiation (in Roentgens/hour)

Further Info:-

- www.BeyondThePoint.co.uk
- www.TheTimeChamber.co.uk
- www.Subbrit.org.uk
- www.ROC-Heritage.co.uk
- Newark Air Museum near Hamfest site - www.newarkairmuseum.org
- BBC - https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-20070903

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Forthcoming Talks

Colin G0TRM has been able to arrange some interesting topics and speakers via the CARS Zoom facility, so make sure your diary has these:-

April 6th – "50 Years in the Hobby" – Don Field G3XTT

Don Field G3XTTDon Field G3XTT, Editor of Practical Wireless, will looking back over his 50+ years in the hobby – a period of amazing experience and great changes.

May 4th – "Further Adventures at VHF/UHF" – Tim Kirby GW4VXE

Tim Kirby GW4VXE, columnist from Practical Wireless, will give a talk on 'Further adventures with your VHF/UHF station.

June 8th – "A Guide to EMF" – John Roger M0JAV

RSGB EMC Chair, John Rogers M0JAV, will explain all about EM-Field exposure and the assessments that amateurs will need to undertake when Ofcom updates licensing conditions

- See also **rsgb.org/emf**

Notes

- Don G3XTT visited CARS in May 2005 to give a talk on the 3B9C (Rodrigues Island) DXpedition
- The June talk is the second Tuesday of the month. Tue Jun-1 will have a CARS net instead

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Essex CW Winner – Les G4JDS

CARS member, Les Radley G4JDS, has been awarded the G4OAD Memorial Key which is awarded annually to an amateur who has shown great improvement in his CW skills or has promoted the use of CW.

ECWARC committee judged Les a worthy recipient, having shown them his enthusiasm for CW and his improved CW skills.

Les attends Morse Classes - which were held in Danbury Village Hall – currently carried out on Skype on Thursday evenings. He also participates in the 2m net held on a Sunday evening.

Join the classes via Skype, Thursdays 19:00:
https://join.skype.com/ki5vAeKPtDaQ

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Tony M0ORF SK Items for Sale

The last newsletter reported the sad passing of Tony Froom M0ORF. On his behalf, Colin Wilson M1OCN is coordinating the SK sale. Please note that the condition of all items below is not known and negotiable. Items listed are located at Maldon, Essex and in addition there are all sorts of valve / early test gear, and various assorted valves yet to be catalogued. Any interest considered!

- MFJ VERSA TUNER £40.00
- MFJ VHF TUNER MFJ-921 £10.00
- MAPLIN XM20W power supply £20.00
- FDK MULTI-3000 2m FM USB LSB CW £50.00 (is this more valuable ??)
- YAESU MEMORIZER FT-227R £60.00
- FDK MULTI-725X 2m TX £30.00
- CW HOWES CTX80 kit (not sure if complete) £10.00
- KW E-ZEE MATCH £20.00
- MFJ MULTI READER MFJ-462B £50.00
- TRIO JR-310 RECEIVER £50.00
- YAESU FT-200 VALVE HF TX £100.00
- RECEIVER No18 MKIII S/No-40933 offers for restoration or parts
- KW VICE ROY - give away, its rather large....

Please contact Colin Wilson M1OCN - email m1ocn@live.co.uk Mobile 07702 192080

TV Aerials from Springfield

John G8DET writes, following previous Freeview talks and stories involving Murray G6JYB and his downsize move to Springfield CM2 6AZ in Chelmsford from Danbury - and the continuing TV frequency moves introduced by Ofcom.

Looking to Crystal Palace, I have to receive Multiplexes on UHF Channel 22 or 23 and I do enjoy watching London Live on my remote channel 8 – which is now on UHF Ch.35.

I have had to admit defeat! Ofcom have beaten me – they have positioned the TV channels in such a way my 20 year old aerials are no longer “Fit for Purpose”.

I have now dispensed with the three aerials for London and purchased a Blake XB10A – it is a modern Long Yagi pattern of the J-Beam “sexy X” I purchased in 1975 which is still fitted on the house I used to own in Danbury – it even survived the 1987 storm.

It is big and took a bit of juggling to get it into my roof – now hung on pieces of string from the rafters. It has been tuned to cut-off well before the Cellnet 4G frequencies and really does have some gain. All London TV Channels are now a minimum signal strength of Quality 8 – most are 10 although I only get Strength 6 – including Mux 35. Wonderful. My bursts of interference have also gone.

Looking outside I find that local TV aerial fitters have provided near to my house similar aerials for both London & Sudbury, so they had found out two years ago what I know now!

it is worth pointing out that similar “cheaper” aerials than mine (£48 from ATV in Sheffield) are Wide Band and therefore do not have the gain as either the Band A or B versions of my sexy X aerial has. See graphs. Certainly better than all other 18 Element aerials I have been playing with for the past 5 years. Well made by Blake Aerials.

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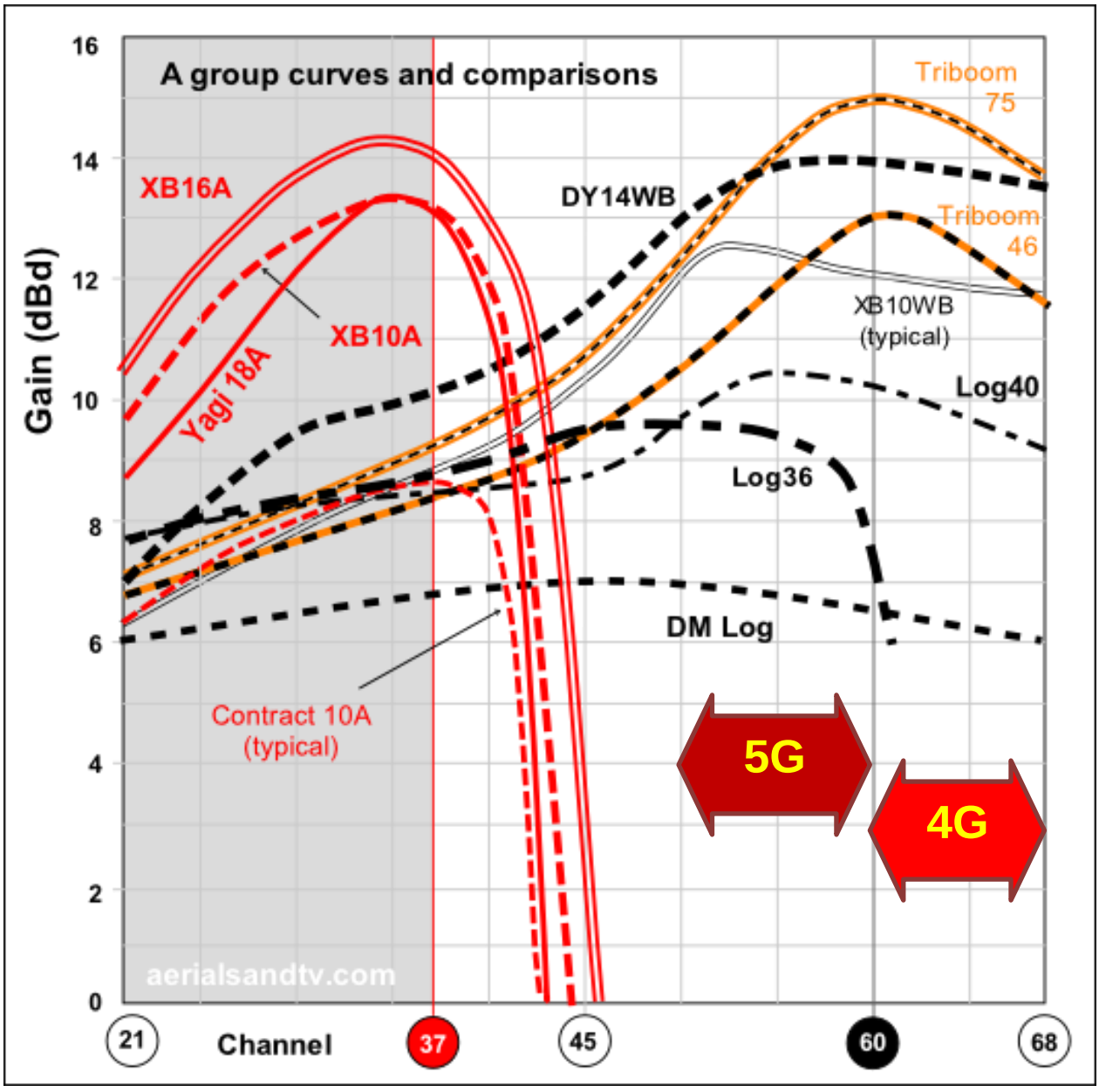

Group-A covers London and others cover higher for Sudbury (but old Groups B&W gets 4G/5G interference)

See more at: https://www.aerialsandtv.com/knowledge/aerials/atvs-aerial-gain-tests/atv-aerial-gain-tests-all-the-gain-curves#a-group-aerial-gain-curves-and-comparisons

Wanted: Volunteers

Following the CARS AGM, we still have important Vacancies to fill:-

PR/RadCom, Newsletter Editor, Equipment Manager, Event/Operating roles and other volunteers

Please contact Colin G0TRM or Chair Elliott

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